

DON'T TALK INTO YOUR MARTINI

By David Wise
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WASHINGTON.

A martini that can listen in on a conversation—the olive is a microphone—was demonstrated to fascinated Senators yesterday, along with a host of other sophisticated eavesdropping gadgets.

The occasion was the opening of hearings by a Senate subcommittee investigating snooping by Federal agencies. Sen. Edward V. Long, D., Mo., is chairman of the panel.

The martini in question can pick up a conversation, whether or not the "olive" is submerged in gin and vermouth. A toothpick sticks up out of the olive and acts as a nanntenna, the lawmakers were told.

Another device demonstrated for the Senators would enable a private conversation in Washington to be monitored in Hawaii, according to the manufacturer. The eavesdropper simply dials the number he wants, long-distance, and can then listen to all conversations in the room, even after the telephone is hung up.

The hearing room itself, as well as the Senators, were "bugged" by the witnesses, giving a Marx Brothers atmosphere to some of the sedate proceedings.

Sen. Long, a jolly, benevolent man who vaguely resembles Santa Claus, opened with a solemn statement of purpose, which he read. A white vase containing red roses, rested on the mahogany committee table in front of him.

PRIVATE EYE

The leadoff witness was Harold K. Lipset, a private eye from San Francisco, who described himself as a former government investigator and an expert on eavesdropping devices and counter-bugging. Mr. Lipset, moon-faced and crew-cut with a Jack Webb voice, introduced an aid, Ralph H. Bertsche, who sat beside him fiddling with a slick, black attache case.

At the request of Sen. Long,

Mr. Lipset, using a pointer, described a series of electronic devices displayed on a table at the side of the room; such gadgets as a transmitter that looks like a pack of cigarettes, a wrist watch mike, and some miniaturized bugs.

"It is missing a special ingredient—an olive." A committee aid then handed him what appeared to be an ordinary green olive stuffed with red pimento and speared by a toothpick.

The witness explained that this was really the transmitter and antenna, delicately noting that they would work even when covered by "liquid." Mr. Lipset avoided the word gin, but he said privately later on that yes, the device would work in a regular martini.

Interrupting his lecture, Mr. Lipset declared: "The remarks of the Senator were transmitted by a transmitter concealed in a rose." The Missouri Democrat then examined the roses in the white vase. "Yes," he said, with obvious delight, "there's a transmitter here—about the size of a thumbnail."

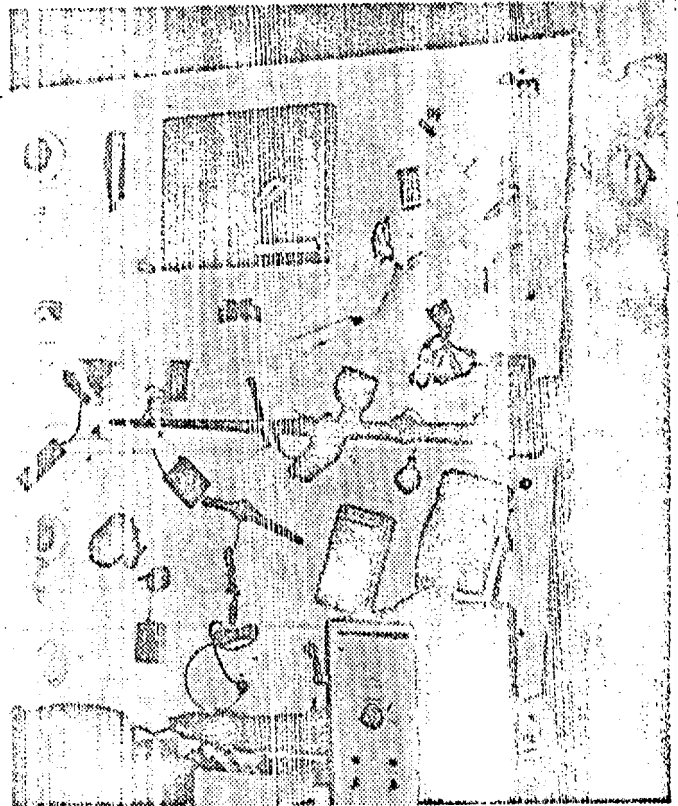
ROSE KNOWS

At a signal from Mr. Lipset, his aid, Mr. Bertsche, then played back Sen. Long's opening remarks on a tape recorder concealed in the black attache case, which had picked up the signals emitted by the transmitter in the rose.

And so it went, with Sen. Long peering through a one-way mirror, and Mr. Lipset offering him cigarettes from a bugged cigarette box and lighter, and the marbled Senate caucus room filled with more bugs than a bungalow in July.

Emmanuel Mittleman of Brooklyn, a stocky, gray-haired manufacturer of custom bugging equipment, emptied pockets full of eavesdropping devices when it came his turn to testify. One of them signals in Morse Code through impulses felt on the skin of the person to whom the device is strapped.

Instead of an ear microphone, said Mr. Mittleman, "Agent



Associated Press wirephoto
THE PRY MARTINI—One in which the "olive" contains a microphone—is pointed out by Harold K. Lipset at Washington hearing on eavesdropping yesterday.

double-o seven would have had a lot more trouble finding out about it." Agent 007, James Bond is the hero of "Goldfinger", an Ian Fleming look.

Mr. Mittleman also demonstrated a small black box about five inches long, which he attached to a telephone. Once installed, he said, it can be activated by dialing that number. Even after the phone is replaced on the cradle, the caller can listen in on any conversation in the room containing the telephone, he said. He testified he had made a dozen of the long-distance bugs, which sell for \$400 apiece.

BEST CUSTOMER

Ralph V. Ward, vice-president, Inc., of Danbury, Conn., a subsidiary of the Mosler

Safe Co., demonstrated a complete line of "surreptitious listening devices" which he said the company sells only to the government and licensed private eyes. He said the "vast majority" of the gadgets are sold to the government.

The radio system in hotels is "frequently" used as a listening system, he said. The system is simply used in reverse to bug a room.

Mr. Ward, waxing increasingly enthusiastic as he displayed his line of bugs, said his firm also manufactures delicate counter-bug equipment, some of which he demonstrated. But the best defense against electronic eavesdropping, he said, is:

- 1. Turn up the TV set loud.
- 2. Step into the shower with the water running.
- 3. Hold conversations in the subway.